



Media Alert

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Tempe and Angels reach agreement to continue spring training at Diablo Stadium

TEMPE, Ariz. – Angels owner Arte Moreno will attend this afternoon's special Tempe City Council meeting when the Council is expected to approve an agreement that provides for a long-term Cactus League relationship with the club.

Today at 4 p.m. in the Tempe City Council Chambers, 31 E. Fifth Street, garden level, the Tempe City Council will vote on a memorandum of understanding between the Angels and Tempe that will pave the way for the renovation of Tempe Diablo Stadium and a lease agreement for Angels spring training in Tempe. The City Council will also vote on an intergovernmental agreement between the City of Tempe, Angels and Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority (AZSTA) that sets the financial arrangements to fund the renovation. Council will also conduct the first public hearing for the 20-year lease agreement for Angels spring training at Diablo Stadium with the second hearing scheduled for Nov. 18.

"This is a great moment in Tempe and Angels history," said Mayor Hugh Hallman.

"The Tempe community not only remains a viable part of the Cactus League but retains one of the premier teams in Major League Baseball. This partnership also promotes our youth and amateur sports in Tempe by allowing us to move forward in building new sports fields for our parks and recreation programs at no additional cost to Tempe."

As part of this agreement, Tempe Diablo Stadium will undergo renovation and new practice fields enable the Angels to relocate their training and minor league teams to Tempe. Renovation of existing fields includes lighting, clubhouse and restrooms, a majority of which will be available for Tempe's youth and amateur sports programs when not used for spring training. The renovations will make Tempe the home of a state-of-the-art spring training facility.

The renovations are a joint venture between the Angels organization, the Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority (AZSTA) and the City of Tempe. The stadium renovation is a joint venture between the Angels organization, the Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority (AZSTA) and the City

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of Tempe. AZSTA will fund \$12 million for stadium and practice field renovations while Tempe will fund \$8 million toward the project. Any costs over the \$20 million will be covered by the Angels organization.

Renovations to the stadium will include improved fan amenities including additional seats, new scoreboard, new sound system and extended practice fields. The \$12 million contribution from the Arizona Sports and Tourism Authority is the first significant contribution from AZSTA to the East Valley.

Arte Moreno, owner of the Angels, has transformed the team into a world-class organization. Moreno is the only Major League Baseball team owner who is a full-time Arizona resident. He is a great asset to the Tempe community and is known as a “fan’s owner” for the many changes he enacted at Angels Stadium. This past year, the Angels drew record home game attendance, which was the third highest attendance for Major League Baseball in 2004.

Moreno supports Tempe’s commitment of sharing revenues to benefit local charities. Spring training in Tempe benefits local Tempe Charities. Tempe Diablos revenues for 2004 were \$371,000, up 10 percent from 2003. Proceeds are distributed to local Tempe charities.

According to a *Cactus League Baseball Attendee Tracking Survey* prepared by FMR Associates, Inc., the estimated economic impact of Angels Spring Training in Tempe in 2003 was over \$7 million. Comparison figures for 2004 showed an increase of 8 percent.

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